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brief speech and he does it. What the Anglo-Saxon poet did because he was excited, the Elizabethan poet does because he must. I think, therefore, there is a chance for the introduction of a new term which will express the quality of the language. It makes no difference whether the adjective or the verb is brief. "Poison speaks Italian" may be given as an example.

PROFESSOR A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT (Johns Hopkins University): I should like to make one or two remarks with reference to the Italian influence upon English at this period. Throughout all this period there must have been a strong influence of the Italian forms upon the English. I was much impressed with this while working in the British Museum last summer. I was making a study of the influence of the Italian language proper upon the English, and I was naturally brought into contact with the purely literary study. After having worked up a sufficient amount of material from which I thought I might make a paper, I sat down to note some of the books that had been translated into English and I came to the conclusion that the Italian works translated into our language, considering their number and importance, must have had a special influence upon it. I found the task of noting these translations so great that I had to give it up at the time with the hope, however, of continuing it on some future occasion. If we may judge by recent English and American writers who have been subject to Italian influence in a cursory way, we must admit a powerful influence from this systematic introduction of Italian thought and literary form at the time treated in this paper.

An Italian expression used by CRAWFORD, the novelist, just occurs to me, and of which very few, unfamiliar with Italian, know the meaning: "What a piece of a woman is that," a direct translation of *Che pezza di donna è quella!* I have asked many persons what this means. They have usually thought that it means: "what an insignificant, a miserable woman that is." The Italian however signifies, as we know, "what a strong, buxom woman is that!" The Italian influences must have done much for the coloring of the style of English speech during this period. We know that in the early part of the Elizabethan period, there was a perfect inundation of Italian literature into England. To my mind one of the most interesting problems in this connection would be to trace what the Italian had done to give coloring to the linguistic and literary products of this epoch. I can only work on the Italian side, but this certainly shows a powerful influence; the new dress was English but the thought in very many cases was wholly Italian.

PROFESSOR ALCÉE FORTIER (Tulane University) followed with a paper on

6. *Bits of Louisiana Folk-lore.**

Discussion. PROFESSOR C. SPRAGUE SMITH (Columbia College):

*Cf. TRANSACTIONS in present volume for the full paper.

With reference to this paper, I think that I can express in the name of the Association our delight with the charming subject which PROFESSOR FORTIER has presented. The remarks already made upon the value of linguistic studies, of local peculiarities of idiom which are now passing away, are applicable to this. This paper is valuable from a philological and also from a literary standpoint. There is very little original folk-lore in America and this is fast passing away. The charm of the tales is that they are presented to us in their original dialect.

DR. F. M. WARREN (Johns Hopkins University): The subject of Folk-lore has received a great deal of attention in France especially by COSQUIN, and in his book PROFESSOR FORTIER will find many references to the tales he has given. In reference to the first story, I would mention one or two points which I recall. In one tale dating back to the first part of the thirteenth century, Reynard the fox feigns death in order to get into a fisherman's wagon to eat his fish. In this case the fox is thrown into the wagon and eats the fish. We also have here one of the Pickard stories, where the goat who is represented by the sheep terrifies the tiger until the tiger's cub discovers that the sheep has no teeth, and the story ends as here by the tiger killing the sheep. Here the tiger beats the goat.

It occurs to me from these two references that if PROFESSOR FORTIER compares his work with what has been done, he will find that the Creole stories of Louisiana, are a mixture of the folk stories of other countries, especially of those bordering on the North of France. I would especially ask PROFESSOR FORTIER that, in his further study of this subject before he publishes his book, he should compare his stories as far as possible with those published by COSQUIN.

PROFESSOR A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT (Johns Hopkins University): I wish merely to allude to one point. PROFESSOR FORTIER says that some of these stories correspond to some which have already been published in France and DR. WARREN has alluded to the same point. Some years ago when in a boat on the St. Lawrence river, I was much impressed with a song, which I heard. I thought that I had heard the song before and on listening closely I found that it corresponded to a song which has been published frequently and one which exists in various dialects. Mistral, the celebrated modern provençal poet, has embodied it under the title "Magali," in his charming book 'Mireio'; the theme has been treated in different languages. Mr. Ulrich printed it some years ago. The song represents a lover talking to the girl he loves: She says that she will turn into a stag; he will turn himself into a hunter to hunt the stag. She will then become a fish, and he replies that he will then become a fisherman. She says, I shall become a beautiful flower; he will become a gardener and pluck that flower. She goes on and finally says that she will become an angel and go to inhabit one of the stars. He too will become an angel and will live forever on the star with her. I

was much impressed with the local coloring that it had assumed in Canada; the beaver here is an important animal, and the beaver as well as other characteristics of Canadian life are brought into the song thus adapted to the customs of this Northern Country.

PROFESSOR EDWARD S. JOYNES (South Carolina College): I would suggest, Mr. President, the advisability of now adjourning until to-morrow morning and postponing the paper of PROFESSOR KROEH until that time. A number of the members who desire to hear the paper have special engagements this evening. In making a motion to leave the paper over until to-morrow morning, I would state that I have spoken to PROFESSOR KROEH, and he is willing to defer the reading of his communication. At the same time, he is perfectly ready to go on now if the Association prefers.

The Association then adjourned till the following morning, at the hour (9.30 o'clock) named on the programme.

In the evening, a brilliant social reception was given to the members of the Convention by the Pennsylvania Historical Society, at their spacious and elegant rooms, 13th and Locust streets. Both the numerous members of this society and several hundred of their friends who had been especially invited to share in their signal liberality, extended to the strangers present that cordial and hearty welcome which has ever been an enviable characteristic of Philadelphia hospitality. On no other occasion of this kind, have the delegates to the annual Conventions of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION had better opportunity for becoming acquainted with a large proportion of the leading citizens of the community where the Conferences have been held. The energetic and efficient Local Committee had made, throughout, the most ample provision for the accommodation and entertainment of their guests and, aided by the generous co-operation of the Historical Society and the Penn Club, arranged for two social festivities that will be remembered as the happiest features of the Philadelphia Convention.

The fourth session of the Association, (Friday morning, December 30th,) was called to order at 10 o'clock, by the Secretary.

THE SECRETARY: I have been requested by our Vice-President to call PROFESSOR EDWARD S. JOYNES to the Chair, for our sitting this morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: I understand that DR. M. I. SWIFT (Hobart College) would like to bring up a little matter before we start on the regular business of the morning.

PROFESSOR M. I. SWIFT (Hobart College): I wish to call the attention of those gathered here to a subject which is certainly interesting educators more and more and one which is just being brought forward in this country. In England it has taken a prominent place in education under the name of "university extension." The idea of this movement of course is to bring before all classes of people the advantages and results of higher education. The plan is for young